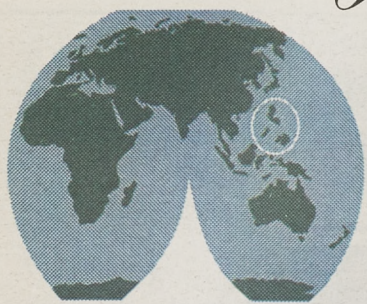




JFK Jr. - Farewell to Camelot?

Philippines & World

R E P O R T



Volume 2 No. 25

The Filipino American Newspaper of the New Millennium

San Diego, California • July 26, - Aug 16, 1999

WORLD

Taiwan President Stands By Statehood

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — President Lee Teng-hui stood behind his claim that Taiwan and China are two states, calling it a necessary step to prepare the capitalist island for talks on eventual reunification with the communist mainland.

Lee insisted he was not championing formal independence for Taiwan, which China says would lead to war. But Beijing was not appeased, reiterating its demand for Taiwan to stop "all activities aimed at splitting the country."

Lee said his declaration that China must deal with Taiwan "on a state-to-state basis" was intended to establish an equal political status for the two that could allow real negotiations on an amicable future.

continued on page 17

Filipino Clergy Make Headway Gains in Diocese of San Diego

Special to PWR
by Edwin M. Yorobe, M.D.

After lumbering for so many years in the quiet shadows of the burgeoning Diocese of San Diego, Filipino priests are finally getting the recognition and respect that they so richly deserve. Sometime by the end of the month, there will have been six Filipino priests with their own parishes, pastor and officer-in-charge of their respective enclaves.

First among equals is Father Peter Escalante, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Ocean Beach. But because he is Hawaiian-born and schooled here in the United States, many do not recognize or count him as a Filipino. But it can not be denied—his brown skin and Filipino good looks are so obvious.

The second to be named pastor and has been so for about ten years now is Father Dionisio "Dennis" Macalintal at the St. Mary's Parrish in National City.

Almost at the same time last year, Father Roque Vaño was installed pastor at St. Margaret Mary in Calexico and Father Cecilio Moraga at St. Joseph Church in Holtville, near El Centro.

To be installed soon, probably by the end of this month, are Msgr. Fernando Gutierrez at St. Michael Church in Paradise Hills and Father Victor Maristela at St. Mary

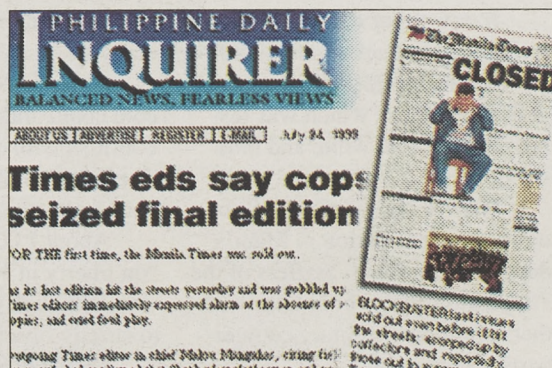
continued on page 22

Press Freedom in peril?

THE Manila Times wrote 30 last Friday, July 24, 1999.

After 10 years of being published under the Gokongwei family, one of the country's oldest English dailies ceased to hit the newsstands.

It will reappear in September, according to the new publisher, lawyer Katrina Legarda. *continued on page 19*



THE SAMAHAN FILIPINO AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTS AND EDUCATION CENTER, FORMERLY SAMAHAN PHILIPPINE DANCE COMPANY, will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a Gala Concert on August 20 and 21, at the Lyceum Theater in Horton Plaza. The photo illustrates the variety of Philippine folk dance costumes in a photograph of present and former Samahan Dancers. From left to right are Michelle Aguilar Camaya and Jd Chiong, who are still active in the Dance Company, and Alumna are Kelly de Guzman, Abigail Juan and Julie Holcomb. Story on page 10



GASLAMP QUARTER CONNECTION PWR sibling turns 1 year old.

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MANILA TIMES Chronology of a sale

• February:

Story on P17-billion Caliraya-Botokan-Kalayaan hydro-electric project awarded to IMPSA calling President Estrada "an unwitting ninong" to an allegedly irregular deal runs in The Manila Times.

President Estrada threatens to sue the newspaper for libel.

Mr. Mark Jimenez expresses interest to buy The Times from the Gokongwei family. Mr. Jimenez brokered the IMPSA deal.

• March:

Estrada files a P101-million libel suit against The Times.

Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora files his own libel suit.

• April:

Metromedia Times Corp. President Robina Gokongwei-Pe issues a personal apology for the anxiety that the IMPSA story might have caused Estrada.

Two editors and two senior staffers of The Times file their resignations.

The rest of The Times' 180 employees, including editor in chief Malou Mangahas, decide to stay.

A businessman, also associated with Mr. Jimenez, offers to buy The Times. Proposal did not prosper.

A defeated presidential candidate in 1992, who remains a political appointee of President Estrada in a government firm, also offers to buy The Times. Proposal did not prosper.

• May:

Three columnists in two newspapers write that Mr. Mark Jimenez had bought into The Times.

PCIBank sold to Equitable

continued on page 10



The Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce, San Diego County Appreciates its 1998-1999 Executive Board:

L to R (1st Row): Normita Atangan, Treasurer; Evelyn Constantino, Auditor; Mari "Bee" Aguinaldo, Vice President; R. Edna Concepcion, President; Atty. Connie Viado, Legal Counsel; Corie Reedyk, Public Relations Officer. L to R (2nd Row) Board of Directors: Ellen Nobles-Sexsion, Ted Eugenio, Ph.D., Susan Delos Santos, Atty. Ashley Abañon, C.L. Vinson, Tom Gilbert, Lydia Lorisio, P. Glen Mondero, Dr. Sahlee Melad, Fil Reynoso, C.P.A. (Not in Photo): Beth Collins, Myrna T.F. Reyes and Max Ricketts. The incoming 1999-2000 Executive Board will be formally inducted on August 9, 1999 at Bob's On the Bay in Chula Vista.

US Navy warship in historic trip to RP

As a brass band played, a US warship carrying 1,000 American troops docked at Manila's South Harbor yesterday for a four-day visit marking the return of large numbers of American forces to Philippine shores after a three-year absence.

US 7th Fleet commander Vice Admiral Walter Doran said the personnel of the USS Blue Ridge will be "good guests" and conduct themselves well during their stay.

"They are well-behaved and are the real ambassadors of goodwill," Doran said of the sailors and crew at a press briefing aboard the ship. "I think this will be apparent to you as you meet them and see them around your city during the next few days."

The visit of the Blue Ridge, the flagship of the 7th Fleet, follows the Senate's ratification of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) which allows the US to resume large-scale war exercises and ship visits in the country.

"Today for us is indeed a very, very special day," Doran said. "It's special because we're back among friends."

Presidential Spokesman Fernando Barican said the visit signaled the resumption of normal defense cooperation between the military allies.

The routine visit, which was arranged in early July, has nothing

to do with recent wrangling between China and Taiwan or fresh disputes between China and the Philippines in the Spratlys in the South China Sea, Barican said.

The last US Navy ship visited Manila in October 1996.

A downpour drenched sailors lining the top deck as the 19,200-ton Blue Ridge docked before noon at South Harbor, which was festooned with red, white and blue balloons.

The US Navy troops will be on rest and recreation in Manila during the port call. Staffers of the 7th Fleet will also hold talks with their Philippine military counterparts, Doran said.

He said the resumption of US ship visits will allow the two navies to work together to address a range of security interests, including drug trafficking, terrorism, environmental threats and weapons proliferation.

Tight security

Extra police units have been placed on duty in the city of Manila to protect the visiting sailors following threats from communist rebels, a US Embassy official said yesterday.

Human rights, Church and leftist groups have also assailed the

VFA for giving Washington jurisdiction over visiting troops who may commit crimes while on official visit.

Other critics fear that the accord could drag the Philippines into conflicts with enemies of the US. The presence of US troops will also encourage prostitution, they say.

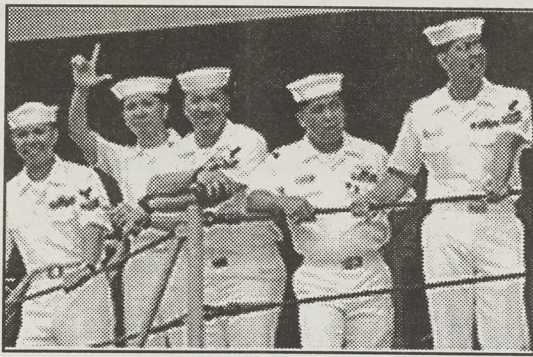
About 1,000 personnel will be "on liberty in Manila" during the visit, although they will be asked to strictly observe a curfew.

They will be coordinating with embassy officials and local authorities to get an idea on the peace and order situation in the Philippines.

Vice Admiral Doran said navy personnel have been ordered to travel in tandem for security and gave assurances that the soldiers will behave.

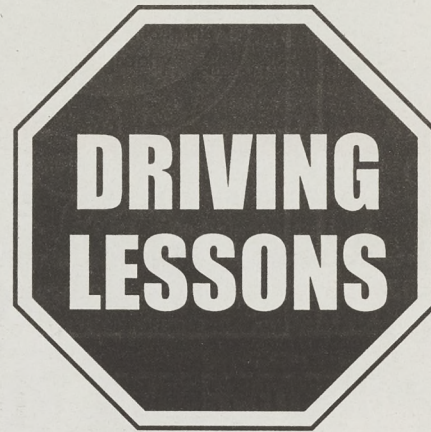
He noted that since the closure of American bases in the Philippines in 1992, the US navy has "evolved a great deal" with its staff more mature, better educated and well behaved.

Many Filipinos were happy just to see the Americans back.



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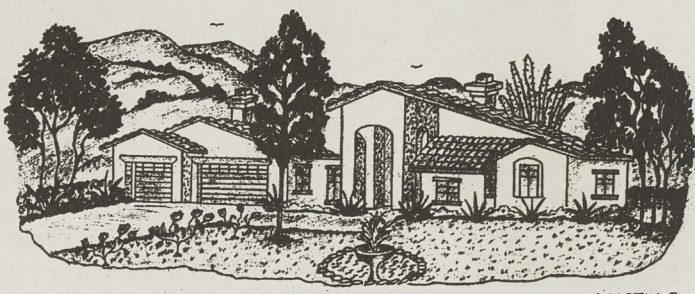


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FACC CORNER

FILIPINO-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

by R. Edna Consing Concepcion
(619) 421-7222 Fax: (619) 421-0075

"Hi...a great Monday!" - goes my usual greeting on the phone depending on the day I'm making my call. When I phone Mayor Shirley Horton's office, the lovely voice on the other end of the line answers, "Hello Edna! We haven't heard from you for awhile. Glad you're calling but you just missed the Mayor". PATTY WESP, the amiable secretary of the Mayor, amuses and amazes me. My call to the Mayor's office could be three weeks apart or three months apart and yet, Patty recognizes the voice or accent on my first "Hi!". The last calls I've made to the Mayor's office, I said a mere "Hello" to see if Patty would pick up on my voice. Patty graciously greeted me with a "Hello Edna!". Of course, she'd beat me in my own silly game of testing her. And no, Patty's line doesn't have 'Caller I.D'. I thought I'd write about that ingenious talent of yours, Patty!

And while we're on this subject, I'd like to thank the rest of the personnel at Mayor Horton's office: ARMANDO BUELNA, assistant to the Mayor, who has been helpful to FACC in many ways and PATRICIA SALVACION who proudly shares with me that she is happily married to a Filipino. These three great personnel assist the lovely and dynamic Mayor in her daily activities in overseeing that this bustling City of Chula Vista is in its usual great splendor.

I am e-mailing this column early since summer vacations are on the horizons. This little family will be in Victoria, British Columbia via Seattle

for some good time when this paper comes off the press). Plus this way, JULIAN ORIEL will be relieved in reminding his Tita Edna about the newspaper's 'deadline'. Thanks again for your patience, Jules!

Our family just got back from a short trip from Vegas. Enjoyed those dazzling lights again, the new hotels & casinos - but most especially the fun company of great friends ROSE & ROD ALONTE and EVELYN & ALEX CASTRO.

Loved that Dessert Section at MGM's Grand Buffet! Was it worth queuing for? Alex and I, true gormands that we are, say so! Please stop by the new Venetian Hotel & Casino on your next trip to this 'city that never sleeps' on the west side of this nation. The Venetian is simply captivating!

Seems like this month of JULY has a handful of special Birthday celebrants....and some of them close to my heart! Happy Birthday to a loved, longtime friend VICKY 'GIRLIE' CARLOS. Vicky and Butch Carlos and our families go way back since 1976 in Charleston, South Carolina. Hubby Dan & I are proud godparents of their three charming girls: Anikka, Kristina & Alyssa. I am blessed to be surrounded by special people - VICKY CARLOS is one of them. Happy 13th of July, Vicky!

Besides "Old Glory", other special folks are celebrating the 4th of July. Happy Birthday to ZALDY MANALAC (a nephew and a godson) and to LIBBY CONCEPCION! Libby Concepcion

is a sister-in-law. Actually, she is the wife of Dan's older brother, Dr. DOMINADOR CONCEPCION, JR. I met Libby when I was introduced to the Concepcion clan as Dan's fiancée. Libby welcomed me and gave me tips on how to smoothly get myself in place in this huge family of 9 siblings plus mom & dad. That was 27 years ago. Although Libby and I live in different 'time zones' (she's in Manila; I am in San Diego), we have our family stories synchronized. We are both happy to be 'old brides' of the Concepcion brothers! Happy 4th of July, Libby!

To REGINA CUYEGKENG LUALHATI, a close friend of mine since grade school at St. Theresa's College in Manila, Happy July 9th!

Friend CONNIE VIADO and I have our common love: theatre plays and FACC. Thus, we talk about these two subjects...and then more. Connie is so many years my junior but I feel no age barrier when discussing things with her. The fine art of conversation comes alive! Connie has been there for me and FACC on my first term as President and her first as FACC's Legal Counsel. She showered me with great suggestions! To a marvelous, witty person...my favorite attorney, Happy 16th of July, Connie!

The Honorable SHIRLEY HORTON is the lovely and dynamic Mayor of the City of Chula Vista. She has shown this nation what women are capable of doing. She has put the City of Chula Vista on the map...along with the Coors Amphitheatre, the ARCO Olympic Training Center and other beautiful sites. We are proud of you, Mayor! Happy 17th of July!

On my first term as President of this Chamber, I invited Mayor Horton to officiate the Installation of the elected officers. She gladly came with the Hon. LILLIAN LIM (another person I have deep

admiration for). These two people have always been supportive of the Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce. They are special friends of FACC! So on Monday, August 9th - guess who will be there to install FACC's newly elected Officers and Board of Directors for the term 1999 - 2000. Winners want to be surrounded by Winners! Also, another dear & special friend of the Chamber, Supervisor GREG COX will be joining us that evening with his debonaire assistant DARREN PUDGIL. See you on this Red Lettered Day: Monday, August 9 at the Bob's on the Bay, 570 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista 5:30 P.M. for a SunDowner/Business Mixer and the Installation of your FACC Executive Board. Donation: \$ 7.00. to FACC for Hors d'oeuvres. What better way to network, expose your business and meet and chat with your FACC Officers as well as some great public officials.

Bring lots of business cards!

Please do not be deceived by Glen Mondero's refreshing young good looks. Besides the charming smiles, he has lots of sound financial advise he could share with you P. GLEN MONDERO is a financial advisor at Paine Webber in downtown San Diego. He also is a Board of Director of FACC and the chamber's Membership Chair. For great financial advise or for membership to FACC, please call Glen at (619) 236-0460. Happy 20th of July, Glen! We've done well on your recommended "luscious shares".

To RICHARD JARAMILLO, AVP at AccuBanc Mortgage Corp., thank you for all those inspiring office meetings. You are one gregarious and kind soul...a good boss. I salute your enthusiasm and wisdom! Happy July 24th, RJ!

While my family was out of town, a sad thing occurred in San

Diego. Our condolences to the VALERIO family. MILAGROS VALERIO, pioneer and matriarch of San Diego's fine bake shops, passed away. Aling Lagring, fondly called by her close friends, was a lady of her own time. I first met her through my work as a Mortgage Lender when she needed financing for her home. Good friend/realtor SALLY JABINAL of Century 21 Award introduced me to Aling Lagring. It was to be the first of many other transactions we would make. And then of course, Aling Lagring recommended me to her friends and her lovely family....son ARISTO and wife LENNY bought a home and needed financing, then NENE & LITO JANOLINO needed refinancing, then it was JESSICA & BOY VALERIO and then daughter FANNIE and hubby BOBBY SANTOS. It was a pleasure to have done business with these wonderful folks - not to mention the added bonus of a complimentary 'pan de sal' every time I'd see them. Last year, the Valerio siblings threw a grand bash for their mom's 69th Birthday. Aling Lagring was extremely proud and happy! To Aling Lagring Valerio, thank you for introducing the best 'pan de sal' to San Diegans!

Movers & Shakers and more: Congratulations to MYRNA T.F. REYES on her move to NEW CENTURY ESCROW & TITLE on H st. in Chula Vista. The office will do exceptionally well with your guidance as Manager! Ms. Reyes is also a Board of Director of FACC. When Myrna moved to New Century, she made sure she brought the dependable and brilliant Escrow Loan officer with her, CORIE REEDYK. Ms. Reedyk is also FACC's Public Relations Officer.

More Power to you, ladies!

Stay Productive! And do Keep Smiling!! :)

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25th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT OF DANCE AND MUSIC

The Samahan Filipino American Performing Arts and Education Center will celebrate their 25th Anniversary with a two-hour concert at the Lyceum Theater, Horton Plaza in August 20 at 8:00 p.m. & 21 at 2:00 & 8:00 p.m. Samahan which was founded by Lolita Dinoso Carter Ph.D. in conjunction with the Youth Program of Operation Samahan, a project of COPAO has been in continuous operation since 1974. Ruby Chiong joined Dr. Cart-

er in 1975 and since then the two of them have offered classes in Philippine dance provided performances in various performance venues throughout the County of San Diego and have built a respectable reputation for Samahan as a member of the lively performing arts of San Diego.

The concert will include popular traditional dances and music from all over the Philippines and

will include several new choreographic works by Ruby Chiong and Lolita D. Carter. Also presenting dances are Michelle Aguilar Camaya, distinguished alumna who is presently on leave from her dance studies at the University of California, Irvine and is on a U. S. and Canadian tour with the musical Fame. Nichi Ellorin who has recently returned from the Philippines after dancing and touring with Bayanihan for over a year and a half

will also be dancing in the program.

The program will have live accompaniment with the Rondalla lead by music director Frederick Embalsado and conducted by Romy Reyes. Samahan's incomparable Kulintang Music Ensemble will feature talented Bernard Ellorin, a protege of Danongan Sibay Kalanduyan, formerly of Datu Piang, Cotabato, Philippines.

The general public is invited to join Samahan celebrate their 25th Anniversary at the Lyceum Theater. Reserved tickets are \$15, 10 & 8. A large number of free tickets will be available for elementary school children who are accompanied by a paying adult for the Saturday 2:00 p.m. program. A number of choice reserved seats at \$25 will be available for sponsors of the Anniversary Concert. For more information please call 444-7528.

Chronology of a sale

from page 1

Bank, in a deal brokered by Mr. Jimenez.

Mr. Jimenez reiterates his interest to buy The Times.

US government, through its embassy in Manila, files extradition complaint against Mr. Jimenez.

• June:

Mr. Jimenez, through a publicist, asks newspapers to run an appeal by his lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, for the Department of Justice to throw out the extradition complaint against him.

Mr. Jimenez, through his lawyer, Aga Francisco, raises the possibility of a joint venture with the Gokongweis, in The Times.

The Times management spells out its conditions: That key editorial

personnel will not be replaced; that the transaction would be an above-board business deal.

Mr. Francisco promises to relay the message to his principal.

Mr. Jimenez discusses with his associates, including Ms. Katrina Legarda and Ms. Marivic Rufino, his plans to buy into a number of media agencies, including The Times. Details of the acquisition of The Times were left to Ms. Legarda.

• July:

Mr. Jimenez goes around telling people he has bought The Times. (Philippine Star publisher, Max Soliven, confirms this in his column on July 22, 1999.)

Ms. Legarda asks Mr. Antonio Roces to come in as chairman of the board of the group that will buy The Times. She assures him that she has "a credible investor."

Ms. Legarda and The Times executives agree in principle to

close an asset sale of the newspaper.

Ms. Legarda says that the Roces family, original owners of the paper, will in effect buy back The Times. She mentions the name of Eddie Roces, president of ABC Channel 5 and younger son of the late Don Joaquin "Chino" Roces, as another partner. Mr. Jimenez' lawyer, Aga Francisco, assists in the discussions.

The Times gets a message from the Jimenez camp: "You cannot close the paper because it will not look good for the President. You cannot sell it to another group because we want it."

Ms. Robina Gokongwei-Pe meets with the editor in chief and publisher on Sunday, July 18, 1999 on the asset sale.

The Times management inform the employees about the negotiations that are nearing completion on Monday, July 19, 1999.

At noon, news about the asset sale of The Times breaks out in the media. Reporters and camera crewmen swamp The Times newsroom.

In the afternoon, as scheduled, Ms. Robina Gokongwei-Pe meets with the editors and section chiefs and the union representatives. Ms. Mangahas meets with reporters,

photographers, artists and other personnel of the editorial department.

Ms. Gokongwei-Pe says that the Roces family led by Ms. Legarda, who is coming in as publisher, will buy back and resume publication of The Times in September 1999.

Mr. Antonio Roces tells the media that he does not know who are investing in the asset sale, and that Ms. Legarda holds the ball. He says he would not consider Mr. Jimenez a credible investor.

Mr. Joaquin (Joaquinito) Roces Jr., elder brother of Eddie is surprised to hear that The Times' asset sale was nearing completion, because he had precisely offered to buy back the newspaper from the Gokongweis two or three years ago. He says that the problem of the Roces family is "Where will we get the money (to buy The Times)?"

Mr. Jimenez denies to the Philippine Daily Inquirer that he was buying The Times. In reply to queries if he was funding Ms. Legarda's project, he says, "Not true! Not True! Not true!"

Ms. Legarda denies to media that Jimenez was among her investors. She admits that the corporation that was to buy into The Times has

yet to be organized. She says she has had only initial discussions with Mr. Antonio and Eddie Roces about the asset sale.

On Tuesday, July 20, 1999, Ms. Legarda holds a press conference. She reiterates that Mr. Jimenez is not among her investors, and says that all that her group wants to buy is the trademark name of The Times. She says that she is not sure if she could resume publication because she has no money.

On Wednesday, July 21, 1999, Ms. Legarda and Ms. Gokongwei-Pe sign the contract covering the asset sale at the Shangri-La EDSA Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Ms. Legarda brings in a surprise: Rhegis Romero II, president of the R-II Builders Group of Companies, who issued a check in the amount of P20 million to bankroll the deal. Ms. Legarda signs as attorney for the buyers, whose identities, apart from Mr. Romero, have not been known.

Mr. Romero tells reporters that it was only the night before, Tuesday, July 20, 1999, that he met with Ms. Legarda for the first time about the deal. It was also at that meeting that Mr. Romero decided to invest P20 million in the project.

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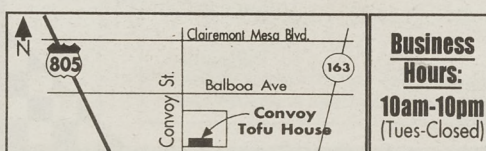
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Bicol Tourism, Trade, and Investment Mission to visit San Diego beginning July 27, 1999

By Al Villamora

Pres., Bicol Club of San Diego County

National City, CA. -- In an unprecedented move by the Bicol Tourism Council, a delegation consisting of about 70 people representing various local governments and the private sector from the provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur came to the United States of America on a tourism, trade and investment mission. The

group, headed by Ms. Pilar D. De Guzman, arrived in Los Angeles on July 22, 1999 in time for the U.S./Phil. Trade and Cultural Expo being held in that city.

Forty-five members of the delegation will be coming to San Diego on Tuesday, July 27th. A dinner reception will be held in their honor on the same date, at the Southwest

Masonic Lodge, 1140 "B" Avenue, National City from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Aside from Ms. De Guzman, Chairperson of the Bicol Tourism Council, the following Philippine tourism officials will also be coming: Mr. Raul Calleja, Director, Presidential Commission on Bicol Tourism; Ms. Emeline Navera, Ex-

ecutive Director, Cottage Industry Training Center; and Ms. Jocelyn Sevilla, Chief, Tourism Officer of the Philippine Department of Tourism. Congressman James Jacob, 2nd District of Camarines Sur; three members of the Camarines Sur Provincial Board; and Mayors from the following Bicol towns are also arriving: (Albay) Tiwi, Bacacay,

Tabaco, Pioduran, Polangui, and Oas; (Cam. Sur) Tigaon, Baao, Bato, Nabua, San Fernando, and Calabanga.

According to Glen Barroga, a local businessman and one of the local coordinators; Mayor George Waters of National City, Mayor Art Madrid of La Mesa, and possibly Mayor Golding of the City of San Diego are among those invited and will probably attend.

Bicolanos and the public in general with interest in this Bicol Tourism, Trade and Investment Mission are highly encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Al Villamora at (619) 660-9248 or Glen Barroga at (858) 549-7722.

Freedom in peril from page 1

The Times was sold for P20 million by the Gokongwei family to controversial real estate developer Reghis Romero II. The deal was sealed Wednesday afternoon after the signing of the sale papers at the Edsa-Shangri-La hotel in Mandaluyong.

Ironically, the paper's last issue sold out and a reprinting had to be ordered because of the increased demand, amidst reports that goons and even uniformed policemen were confiscating bundles of the paper.

Mourning

The staff of The Times mourned the demise of the paper which had been critical of the Estrada administration. Clad in black, they posted newsroom banners that said "Defend Press Freedom."

Editor in chief Malou Manga has said the purchase was part of an effort to stifle newspapers that

are critical of the government.

"We are happy because we are going out together with our pride and dignity as journalists intact," said Mangahas. "It's really sad in another sense because this is the last time we are working together as a group," she added.

The closure follows a year of rocky relations between Estrada and the freewheeling Philippine press and comes amid allegations that he is orchestrating efforts to financially pressure another newspaper, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, also critical of his government.

Several movie producers, large Philippine corporations and government agencies have withdrawn their advertisements from the Inquirer in recent weeks.

Some of the producers said they pulled their ads in sympathy for Estrada, who had accused the media of inaccurate reporting.

Brewing crisis

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, meanwhile, castigated both Estrada and his critics.

"There is a brewing crisis in our land," Sin said in a statement.

He cited the conflict between Estrada and the press, the move to amend the constitution and the reported rise in "cronyism" practiced under the late dictator Marcos.

Sin said citizens have no right to hurl insults at public officials, including the president. Instead Estrada should be respected.

But he added that the respect "must be paid with the price of public accountability, unassailable integrity and exemplary conduct. Without these, it is authoritarianism."

Free country

On the eve of the closure of The Times, President Estrada called for a luncheon meeting with Palace reporters to deny he is suppressing the freedom of the press.

Mrs. Aquino, who is set to lead a rally next month to "remind" the administration about the gains of EDSA, should rally instead against the "disinformation" being spread by the media.

"I don't mind. It's a free country. Mag-rally sila. Malinis naman ang konsensya natin," he said.

He also refuted claims that cronyism is back. "Sino ang crony na tinulungan ko? Sino? Name me one, baka sumali pa ako sa kanila sa rally," Estrada said.

Helpless

At the Batasan complex yesterday, Legarda said she "can't do any-

thing" about the future of The Times staff affected by the take-over.

She said it is not her responsibility to talk to them and inform them of the job vacancies in the newly-bought publication.

"If they want to work with me, they should be professional. They know what to do," she said. She is said to be looking for young women who can write.

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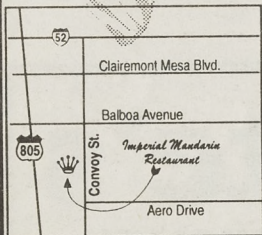
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Why The Filipino-American Community

from page 4

important point that was critical to the validity of the report. It would have balanced the story, and eliminated the suspicion of bias.

Second, increased incidents among *younger patients* are among the essential parts of the whole story that should have been equally highlighted. Was it a case of "ignorant reporting"? I don't think so.

Third, some "16 to 18 million" individuals of all nationalities living in the country today are currently suffering this disease compared to a very small group of older Filipino women who were randomly surveyed, mostly only in La Mesa. The basis of the conclusion was inadequate.

Relative proportions of diabetics identified with the total population of different nationalities would have refocused attention on a wider basis of comparison, proving or disproving the conclusion that diabetes is in fact prevalent only among older Filipino women, and not with other older female nationals in the country.

Instead, what came out was a news *slant* portraying an imbalance or a suspect comparative narration of facts.

We call this third infraction in yellow journalism as "portraying a part as the whole," or "a half-truth as the whole truth," for the purpose of delivering an underhanded punch in news reporting.

This reminds me of an anecdotal experience. While yet a senior journalism student at the University of Santo Tomas, College of

Philosophy and Letters, (and at the same time running a weekly newspaper in Manila), I have substituted Professor Felix Bautista for several sessions in teaching editorial writing. Yellow journalism was a key element in editorial reporting. What I am stating here is one of the perfect examples of how the higher ethics of journalism should not be compromised by irresponsible editorial news reporting.

Dr. Edwin M. Yorobe ran a complementary diabetes story in the July 5-25, 1999 issue of the *Philippines & World Report*. Copies of this widely read newspaper can be obtained from several distribution centers in the Filipino community. The quotes in the *first* and *third* paragraphs and the italicized words *younger patients* in the *second* paragraph you just read were lifted from Dr. Yorobe's PWR special report on diabetes.

The PWR story provided the facts that the controversial UT diabetes report had excluded. With a sigh of relief, concerned Filipinos interpreted this move as an attempt to mitigate the damage done to the Filipino community by the June 20th issue of the Union Tribune.

Stung by UT's wayward report, I would have done exactly the same. But I am not lucky. Dr. Yorobe is lucky because what stirred the hornet's nest falls squarely on his expertise.

The question is, why would Union Tribune demean the Filipino community with such an underhanded report? When the COPAO group protested in writing why the community cannot get a space in Union Tribune, the editor and her staff didn't tell them the truth:

One, UT reads the Filipino-American community newspapers. Nothing - repeat, nothing - can be identified with community

activities with regards to those burning issues of the day linked to national and local interests for which UT would give away an arm to cover, regardless of any source.

Two, Filipino ballroom dancing, someone's birthday, anniversary celebration, marriage, ethnic version of beauty pageant, graduation, parade, induction of club officers and the like the community is too preoccupied with, are catnap news - news UT's subscribers would yawn and fall asleep when reading.

These are ad-seeking news that make freely distributed minority newspapers circulate in the community, but nothing of this sort is identifiable with UT or other major newspapers that operate under a different standard.

In other word, these are the kinds of happenings in the community that cannot oblige UT to write about, as a matter of editorial policy.

It could have been an act of magnanimity on the part of Union Tribune when the innocent group from COPAO was spared of embarrassment by not telling them this sad truth that hurts.

But what could have broken the camel's back was when the COPAO group compared the importance of the Philippine Faire and Parade annual event as similar to if not more important than the country's national observance of Martin Luther King Day! According to this thinking, Union Tribune may not excuse itself from not covering the Philippine Faire and Parade, which COPAO has sponsored.

The Union Tribune upholds the tradition of national heroes in the highest order as a standard policy of the print media. It cannot be faulted if it recoiled with contempt because this group representing the Filipino community, had miniaturized Martin Luther King into an ethnic Faire and Parade that

continued on page 27

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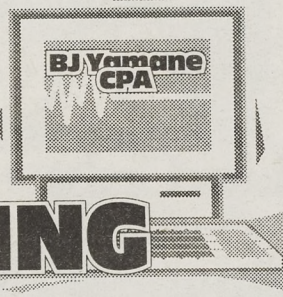
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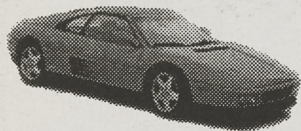
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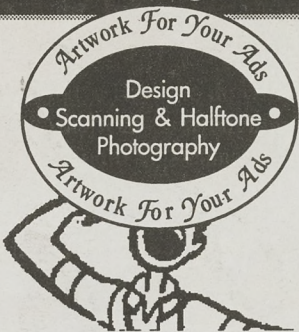
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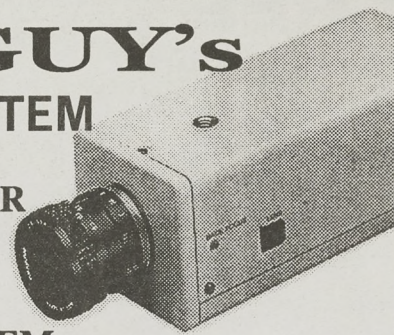
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Why The Filipino- American Community

from page 20

Filipinos even hardly attend and participate.

The question that explodes like a bolt of lightning in the mouth of concerned Filipinos in the community is this: Is the comparison not embarrassing, perhaps too capriciously ambitious to be of comfort to conservative Americans which Union Tribune represents? It is oblivious to the feelings of those who idolize the giant of this country's civil rights movement.

We may have the same answer. But to this Filipina who is married to an educated black, *nakakahiya daw* because her husband felt

strongly that the memory of the colossal civil rights icon Martin Luther King, has been desecrated by this irresponsible, if not ignorant, comparison.

It did not come as a surprise to me why on June 20, in response to this COPAO group's trip to the editorial office, Union Tribune dished out a *diabetes* front-runner! *Nasa* front page *pa*. This is just the beginning. Expect the worst to come next.

What is important to stress here is that, the Filipino community does not deserve a shabby reporting from Union Tribune or from any major newspapers anywhere. Intelligent and highly educated Filipinos are the living soul of the community that for so long had institutionalized the respect of their peers from other communities.

Let us assure the whole world that in this particular diabetes-reporting incident, they are not what they have been represented to be.
edwin [ed.s.] a. sumcad

REIT: An alternate way to invest in commercial real estate

from page 21

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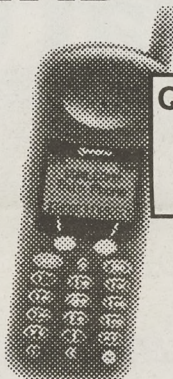
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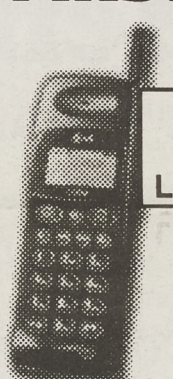
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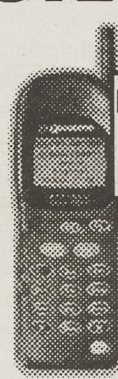
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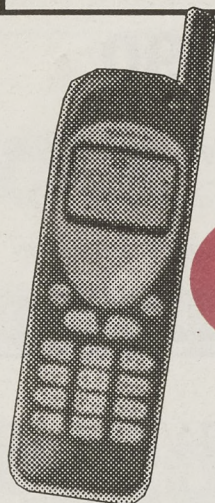
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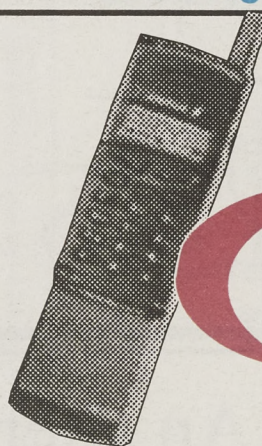
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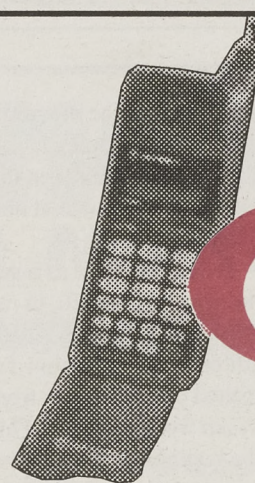
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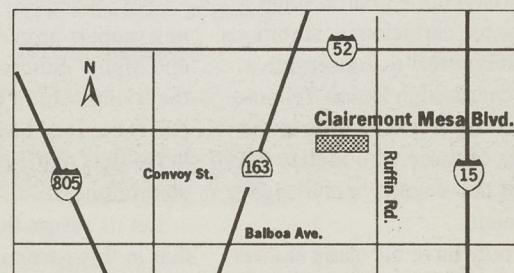
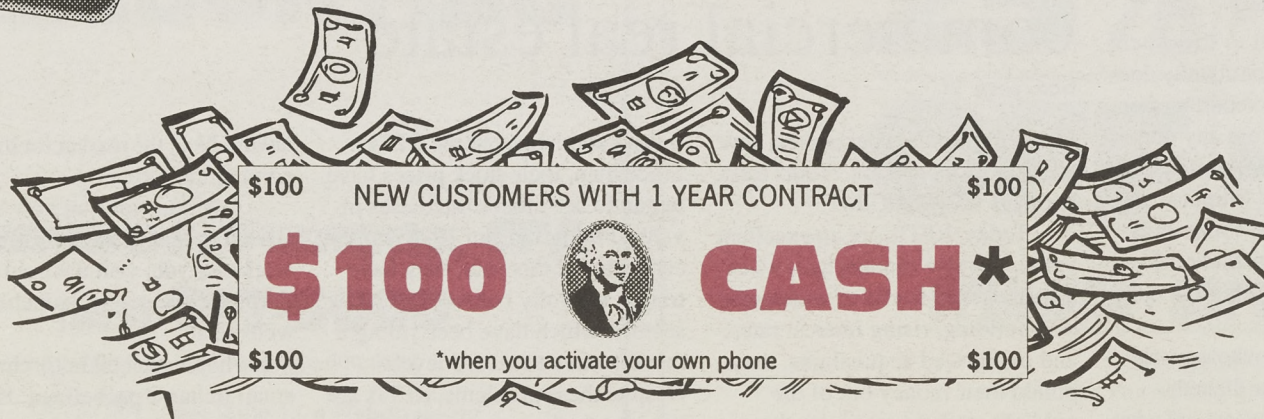
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